

To: Mike Lee[Mike.Lee@tn.gov]
From: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Sent: Fri 9/11/2020 8:53:26 PM (UTC)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] The Byhalia Pipeline is unsafe for Southwest Memphis

Dear Mike Lee, Division of Water Resources

I am writing to express my worry and displeasure about the location of the proposed Byhalia Connection, which would disproportionately affect the Boxtown neighborhood in Memphis.

Plains does not have a good safety record. A Plains-owned pipeline ruptured in California in May 2015, releasing almost 3,000 barrels of crude oil.

Boxtown is 99% Black, according to U.S. Census data, and it has experienced decades of environmental racism. In a five-mile radius around Smith's church in Boxtown, near where Fields Road trails to an end at Boxtown Road, are at least 32 industrial facilities. To the west sit iron and steel mills; to the east, a pesticide manufacturer. A few miles north, between McKellar Lake and Nonconnah Creek, a Valero oil refinery pumps 195,000 barrels of oil per day.

According to a 2013 study, the cumulative cancer risk from toxic air in southwest Memphis, which includes Boxtown, is four times higher than the national average, and driven by industrial and transportation-related pollutants like benzene and formaldehyde.

U.S. Rep. Steve Cohen, D-Memphis, as even said that he is "not convinced" that the planned pipeline route "takes into consideration the sensitivity of the environment, and particularly the vulnerability to which it could expose the Memphis sand aquifer."

Please take all of the above considerations in mind to why southwest Memphis is no place for an unsafe pipeline.

Sincerely,

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North Memphis, 38128